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TITLE: Method and system for product configuration definition and tracking.

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ABSTRACT:

CHG DATE=19990617 STATUS=0> A method and system for the definition and tracking of multiple unique product configurations for configuration management in which customer contracted views of the product are defined by applying temporary changes to the base product configuration. A product serial number effectivity is assigned to each unique customer specified product configuration and to the base product configuration in order to maintain multiple time-oriented versions of the product, thus supporting simultaneously both customer-specified and design-specified engineering changes to the base product. A product configuration identifier provides non-redundant data storage for each unique product configuration and can refer to noncontiguous ranges of product serial numbers. The configuration entry identifier in a product configuration table is used to peg detail component requirements to serially numbered products in order to correlate the product configurations as built with the product configuration as designed. A component position identifier provides traceability of temporary changes made to the base product that result from customer contract specifications.